

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please delete the fifth full paragraph on page 3, and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1 depicts the sequence and secondary structure of the 5' UTR **(SEQ ID NO: 9)** from the HCV genome. It also provides specific sequences of siRNAs for inducing RNAi toward HCV in hepatic cells **(SEQ ID NOS 1-8, respectively, in order of appearance)**.

Please delete the sixth full paragraph on page 3, and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 2 provides sequences **(SEQ ID NOS 10-66, respectively, in order by column)** for several HCV-specific siRNAs that are useful for inducing RNAi toward HCV in hepatic cells. Each HCV-specific siRNA is identified by the designation provided in the first column.

Please delete the last full paragraph on page 3, and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 3 shows the nucleotide sequence **(SEQ ID NO: 67)** of the SARS coronavirus.

Please delete the third full paragraph on page 31, and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

Two exemplary modified siRNAs are provided below **(SEQ ID NOS 3-6, respectively, in order of appearance)**:

Chol-GL2	Chol-CGUACGCGGAAUACUUCGAUU UUGCAUGCGCCUUAUGAAGCU
GL2	CGUACGCGGAAUACUUCGAUU UUGCAUGCGCCUUAUGAAGCU